

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAMASC 01995 251438Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
SSM-03 OMB-01 ACDA-07 IO-13 /080 W
-----260331Z 102683 /73

R 251342Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2391
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
DIA WASHDC
CINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 1995

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, SY, LE
SUBJECT: SHIHABI DISCUSSES LEBANON

1. IN MARCH 23 MEETING, COS SHIHABI INDICATED HIS
CONTINUAL UNEASINESS ABOUT THE CURRENT STATE OF PLAY IN SOUTH
LEBANON. HE OBSERVED THAT THE SITUATION THERE COULD BE
BROUGHT TO THE BOIL ANY MOMENT ONE OF THE MAIN
ACTORS SO DESIRES. THE SO-CALLED "STABILITY" ALONG THE
SOUTH LEBANON BORDER DOES NOT REPRESENT A MILITARY
BALANCE OF FORCES BUT IS AN ARTIFICIAL ARRANGEMENT THAT
COULD BE EASILY UPSET WHETHER BY ISRAEL, LEBANESE CHRISTIANS
OR PALESTINIAN REJECTIONISTS.

2. LEBANESE ARAB ARMY:

THE LAA IS TODAY REDUCED TO A FEW POCKETS OF TROOPS
OPERATING IN TYRE AND THE NABATIYAH AREA. ITS FORMER
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COMMANDER LT. AL-KHATIB AND HIS CHIEF OF STAFF (FNU)
MANSOUR ARE STILL IN A DAMASCUS PRISON WHERE THEY WILL
REMAIN "UNTIL THEY HAVE RETHOUGHT THEIR POSITIONS."

3. LEBANESE ARMY:

SARKIS KEEPS TELLING DAMASCUS THAT HE WILL FACE DOWN

CHAMOUN AND OTHER CHRISTIAN LEADERS WHO HAVE BEEN OPPOSED
TO RECONSTRUCTION OF THE ARMY. REGRETTABLY, HE HAS THUS FAR
DONE NOTHING. SHAHABI SHARES CONVICTION OF OTHERS IN THE
SYRIAN LEADERSHIP THAT SARKIS CAN OVERRIDE HIS OPPOSITION
AND FIELD AT LEAST 1,000 MEN ON SHORT NOTICE. (IN DISCUSSING
THIS, HE IS, HOWEVER, NOTABLY LESS DOGMATIC AND MORE
CHARITABLE TOWARDS SARKIS PERSONALLY THAN FOR EXAMPLE, KADDAM.
MURPHY

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 25-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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TAGS: PFOR, SY, LE, (SHIHABI, HIKMAT)
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